

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION

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|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| CORNELIUS BLAIR, Reg. No. 10853-089, |) | |
| |) | |
| Plaintiff, |) | |
| |) | |
| v. |) | CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:18-CV-276-WKW |
| |) | |
| WALTER WOODS, |) | |
| |) | |
| Defendant. |) | |

RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Plaintiff, a federal inmate, filed this *Bivens*¹ civil rights action in which he challenges certain conditions at the Maxwell Federal Prison Camp related to the presence of bats in the ceilings of the living areas. However, Plaintiff did not file the \$350 filing fee and \$50 administrative fee applicable when a plaintiff is not proceeding *in forma pauperis* nor did he submit an original affidavit in support of a motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* accompanied by the required documentation from the inmate account clerk regarding the average monthly deposits and average monthly balance in his inmate account for the six-month period prior to filing this case. Thus, the pleadings filed by Plaintiff failed to provide the court with the information necessary for a determination of whether he should be allowed to proceed without prepayment of a filing fee in this cause of action.

Based on the foregoing, the court entered an order requiring Plaintiff to “file either the \$400.00 filing/administrative fees or an appropriate affidavit in support of a motion for

¹ *Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents*, 403 U.S. 388 (1971).

leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* accompanied by relevant financial information from the inmate account clerk at Maxwell.” Doc. 3 at 1–2. The order specifically cautioned Plaintiff “that if he fails to comply with this order the Magistrate Judge will recommend that this case be dismissed.” Doc. 3 at 2.

On March 27, 2018, Plaintiff filed an application for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* but did not submit a prison account statement from the inmate clerk at Maxwell showing the average monthly balance in his prison account for the 6-month period immediately preceding the filing of this complaint and the average monthly deposits to his account during the past six months as directed by the court’s previous order. The court therefore ordered that on or before April 16, 2018 Plaintiff file his account information and again advised Plaintiff that his “failure to comply with the directives of this order will result in a Recommendation that this case be dismissed.” Doc. 7.

Plaintiff has failed to file the requisite financial information within the time provided by the court. Absent pre-payment of the requisite fees or the granting of *in forma pauperis* status, this case cannot proceed before this court. The undersigned therefore concludes that this case is due to be dismissed without prejudice. *See Moon v. Newsome*, 863 F.2d 835, 837 (11th Cir. 1989) (holding that, generally, where a litigant has been forewarned, dismissal for failure to obey a court order is not an abuse of discretion). The authority of courts to impose sanctions for failure to prosecute or obey an order is longstanding and acknowledged by Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. *See Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626, 629–30 (1962). This authority empowers the

courts “to manage their own affairs so as to achieve the orderly and expeditious disposition of cases.” *Link*, 370 U.S. at 630–31; *Mingo v. Sugar Cane Growers Co-Op of Fla.*, 864 F.2d 101, 102 (11th Cir. 1989) (holding that a “district court possesses the inherent power to police its docket.”). “The sanctions imposed [upon dilatory litigants] can range from a simple reprimand to an order dismissing the action with or without prejudice.” *Mingo*, 864 F.2d at 102.

Accordingly, it is the RECOMMENDATION of the Magistrate Judge that this case be dismissed without prejudice for failure of Plaintiff to file necessary financial information as ordered by this court.

On or before **May 17, 2018**, the plaintiff may file objections to the Recommendation. Any objections filed must specifically identify the findings in the Magistrate Judge’s Recommendation to which he objects. Frivolous, conclusive or general objections will not be considered by the District Court. The plaintiff is advised that this Recommendation is not a final order of the court and, therefore, it is not appealable.

Failure to file written objections to the proposed findings and recommendations in the Magistrate Judge’s report shall bar a party from a *de novo* determination by the District Court of factual findings and legal issues covered in the report and shall “waive the right to challenge on appeal the district court’s order based on unobjected-to factual and legal conclusions” except upon grounds of plain error if necessary in the interests of justice. 11TH Cir. R. 3-1; *see Resolution Trust Co. v. Hallmark Builders, Inc.*, 996 F.2d 1144, 1149 (11th Cir. 1993); *Henley v. Johnson*, 885 F.2d 790, 794 (11th Cir. 1989).

DONE this 3rd day of May, 2018.

/s/ Wallace Capel, Jr.

CHIEF UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE